

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009408

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

S E C R E T STATE 009408

NESCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 009408 SENT PARIS BONN BERN STOCKHOLM
THE HAGUE BRUSSELS ROME BEIRUT DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL AVIV CAIRO
AMMAN ALGIERS USUN NEW YORK DATED JAN 15.

UOTE

S E C R E T STATE 009408

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO (NAJMAN, DRAGOLJUB)

SUBJ: VISIT OF SENIOR UNESCO EMISSARY TO DEPARTMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 009408

1. SENIOR EMISSARY OF UNESCO DG M'BOW, DRAGOLJUB BAJMAN, VISITED DEPT. ON JANUARY 9. NAJMAN SAW IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM, AMBASSADOR CAROL LAISE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES BLAKE (ALSO FOR LUNCH) AND MOREY, PLUS ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR WITH SENIOR AID OFFICIALS.

2. NAJMAN TOLD SENIOR DEPT. OFFICIALS THAT M'BOW HAD SENT HIM TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS TWO MAIN QUESTIONS: 1) DESIRABILITY OF A VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY DG AROUND FEBRUARY 27, WHEN M'BOW INVITED TO ADDRESS AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION HERE AND 2) IMPACT OF RECENT U. S. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO AND HOW TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THIS NEW SITUATION.

3. RE POSSIBLE M'BOW VISIT, NAJMAN STRESSED THAT DG WANTS TO BE HELPFUL AND WOULD COME TO WASHINGTON ONLY IF DEPT. AGREED THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. SIMILARLY, NAJMAN EMPHASIZED M'BOW WOULD COME ONLY IF DEPT. CONSIDERS THERE WOULD BE MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE AND TANGIBLE BENEFITS FLOWING FROM SUCH VISIT. IF DEPT. THOUGHT THAT VISIT AT LATER TIME WOULD BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS, M'BOW WOULD FOLLOW DEPT.'S COUNSEL.

4. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM AND OTHER IO SENIOR OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION BOTH FOR NAJMAN'S VISIT AND INTEREST OF DG M'BOW IN BEING HELPFUL. IO BRIEFED NAJMAN FULLY ON EXTENSIVE REACTION AMONG IMPORTANT SECTORS OF U. S. PUBLIC OPINION AND IN PARTICULAR IN U. S. CONGRESS TO UNESCO 18TH GC DECISIONS AFFECTING ISRAEL AND EVOLUTION OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION I.E. DIRECTING THAT "NO FUNDS SHOULD BE OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO SUPPORT UNESCO UNTIL THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIES TO THE CONGRESS THAT SUCH ORGANIZATION 1) HAS ADOPTED POLICIES WHICH ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ITS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL OBJECTIVES AND 2) HAS TAKEN CONCRETE STEPS TO CORRECT ITS RECENT ACTIONS OF A PRIMARILY, POLITICAL CHARACTER." AMBASSADOR BUFFUM IN SOME DETAIL RELATED THE UNESCO DECISIONS AND THE U. S. REACTION THERE-TO. HE NOTED THE TENOR OF U. S. VIS-A-VIS ENTIRE UN
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PAGE 03 STATE 009408

AND UN SYSTEM, AS REFLECTED IN AMB. SCALI'S DECEMBER 7 UNGA SPEECH IN WHICH LATTER SET FORTH THE DANGERS AND DISTURBING TRENDS IN THE UN, THE ACCELERATED TREND TO ONE-SIDED AND UNREALISTIC RESOLUTIONS, AND THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AS TO THE GENUINE USEFULNESS OF THE UN AS AN ORGANIZATION.

5. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM TOLD NAJMAN THAT DEPT. WARMLY

WELCOMES DG M'BOW VISIT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT WE WOULD
WISH TO TAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS AND HAVE MORE TIME TO
REFLECT ON TIMING. BUFFUM EXPRESSED STRONG AGREEMENT
THAT VISIT SHOULD BE ACHIEVEMENT-ORIENTED, AND IN FACT
SAID HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE HIS TRAVEL TO GENEVA GROUP
MEETING SO AS TO PERMIT DISCUSSIONS WITH M'BOW IN PARIS.

6. RE POSSIBILITIES OF CORRECTIVE ACTION BY U.S. AND
UNESCO TO REDRESS SITUATION CREATED BY 18TH UNESCO GENERAL
CONGERENCE DECISIONS AFFECTING ISRAEL, IO EXPLORED IN
DETAIL WITH NAJMAN FEASIBILITY OF CALLING A SPECIAL
SESSION OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD. NAJMAN, EMPHASIZING
THAT HE WAS SPEAKING WITH UTMOST CANDOR, BECAUSE SITUATION
SO REQUIRED, DEEMED SPECIAL SESSION AS UNWISE MOVE
POLITICALLY. FIRST, USG WOULD HAVE TO CONVINCE OTHER
BOARD MEMBERS THAT SITUATION WARRANTS A SPECIAL SESSION;
SECOND, ARAB/MOSLEM/SOVIET BLOC WOULD VEHMENTLY OPPOSE;
THIRD, LATTER PLUS CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS WOULD VIEW USG
CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION AS UNUSUAL AND EXTREME POLITICAL
PRESSURE AND WOULD RESIST IN KIND; FOURTH, NAJMAN'S
VOTE TALLY IN EX BD, WHICH HE PASSED ON TO IO, SHOWS
USG AND ISRAEL LOSING ON KEY VOTES BY 10 FOR (U.S.,
ISRAEL, SOME EURS, SOME LAS), 15 AGAINST AND 15 ABSTAINING
OR ABSENT. PATTERNS IN EX BD VOTES, NAJMAN COMMENTED,
WOULD CLOSELY FOLLOW VOTES ON KEY JERUSALEM AND EUROPEAN
REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUES AT UNESCO 18TH GC.

7. NAJMAN EXPRESSED HIS AND DG M'BOW VIEW THAT MOST
POTENTIALLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND PROMISING ISSUE ON WHICH TO
GET FORWARD MOTION OF A KIND WHICH COULD BE FAVORABLY
INTERPRETED BY U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION IS
THAT OF JERUSALEM MONUMENTS. REFERRING TO M'BOW'S RECENT
INTERVIEW WITH THE PROMINENT ISRAELI NEWSPAPER "MAARIV"
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PAGE 04 STATE 009408

(PARIS 30575 OF DECEMBER 19, 1974) AND M'BOW'S OFFER TO
VISIT ISRAEL, NAJMAN STRESSED THAT IF M'BOW COULD VISIT
ISRAEL, TALK WITH GOI OFFICIALS AT THE VERY TOP, AND ALSO
VISIT THE SITES OF THE DISPUTED EXCAVATIONS, TUNNELS,
ETC., THAT, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF VISIT, M'BOW COULD
HAVE SOME CONCRETE ISRAELI CONCESSION ON MONUMENTS IN HAND
TO PRESENT TO EX BD AT ITS MAY 5 SESSION, SOMETHING
POSITIVE WHICH COULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR AN EVENTUAL
SOFTENING OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN NOVEMBER.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH DG VISIT TO ISRAEL, HOWEVER, NAJMAN
TOLD BUFFUM THAT IT WAS M'BOW'S FRANK ASSESSMENT THAT
LIKELIHOOD OF INVITATION OR ISRAELI CONCESSION WAS DOUBTFUL
UNLESS USG PUT IN A GOOD WORD WITH GOI. ADDRESSING THIS
POINT IN SOME DETAIL, BUFFUM REFERRED TO OTHER MORE URGENT

AND COMPELLING PRIORITIES ON WHICH USG CONTINUES TO HAVE TO INTERVENE WITH ISRAEL AND POINTED OUT ISRAELIS SELDOM REACT POSITIVELY IN FACE OF PRESSURES SUCH AS THOSE ENGENDERED BY RECENT UNESCO ACTION; HOWEVER, HE SAID U. S. WOULD STUDY POSSIBILITY OF TALKING WITH GOI ON QUESTION OF VISIT AND WOULD KEEP UNESCO DG INFORMED.

9. FINALLY, NAJMAN EXPRESSED DG VIEW THAT ISSUE OF ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP OFFERED LITTLE HOPE FOR CORRECTIVE FORWARD-MOTION ACTIONS. HE ARGUED THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE THE REGIONAL GROUP ISSUE IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF AUTHORITY OF THE EX BD. ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP WAS NOW SENSITIZED TO ISSUE AS RESULT ITS UNFORTUNATE TIE-IN WITH JERUSALEM RESOLUTIONS. MOREOVER, EVEN WE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN GROUP WAS SPOTTY. NAJMAN GAVE AS HIS VERY FRANK PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THAT STRONG USG INITIATIVE TO GET ACTION TAKEN AT MAY, 1975 EX BD SESSION WOULD BE QUITE COUNTER-PROMPTIVE AND HARM POSSIBILITIES FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON JERUSALEM ISSUE. IO RESERVED ITS JUDGMENT ON THIS ISSUE, BUT STREESSED THAT WE AND UNESCO WOULD ALSO HAVE TO SHOW PROGRESS, THE SOONER THE BETTER, ON CORRECTING THE UNFAIRNESS INHERENT IN ISRAEL'S NON-ADMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP.

10. ACTION REQUESTED:

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PAGE 05 STATE 009408

A) ALL ADDRESSEES ARE INSTRUCTED TO TREAT ABOVE AS STRICTLY FYI FOR TIME BEING. THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO DEVIATION FROM THIS.

B) REQUEST READING FROM U. S. MISSION, UNESCO, ON FEASIBILITY OF USG CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION UNESCO EX BD.

C) REQUEST READING FROM EMBASSY TEL AVIV (PLEASE DO NOT DISCUSS WITH GOI AT THIS STAGE) ON GOI RECEPΤIVITY TO M'BOW'S OFFER TO VISIT ISRAEL, EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH M'BOW AND UNESCO COULD GO ABOUT OBTAINING SUCH INVITATION, POSSIBILITIES THAT GOI MIGHT BE INDUCED TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSION ON MONUMENTS ISSUE AND EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT SUPPORT, IF ANY, USG SHOULD PROVIDE TO ANY INITIATIVE FOR AN M'BOW VISIT TO ISRAEL.

D) DEPT. WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS AS TO POSSIBLE ACTIONS US AND UNESCO MIGHT TAKE ALONG ABOVE AND OTHER LINES SO AS TO HELP CORRECT SITUATION FACING UNESCO.

11. NAJMAN AND IO COVERED NUMBER OF OTHER RELATED
AND IMPORTANT TOPICS WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTEL.
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